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THE STAR BRAND
PIT PLAGUE!

new universe™

THE STAR BRAND

The Star Brand . . . the most potent object of power the Earth has ever seen. Where it came from, how it got to Earth, what energies it employs are unfathomable mysteries. Whosoever wields its power can do virtually anything. The only limitation to its use is the imagination and courage of its wielder.

So far two men of Earth have possessed its power. The first, known only as the Old Man, was a Dutch count who acquired the Star Brand some 500 years ago. He kept the power a secret while it grew inside his body, aging his body very slowly. Eventually he realized that the power was too unstable for him to ever control, and on July 22, 1986, the Old Man tried to transfer its power to an asteroid. The flash of energy caused by the transfer atomized the asteroid and sent the Star Brand's awesome energies cascading into space, bombarding the earth with mutagenic energy. This, dubbed the White Event, lasted less than two seconds, but had worldwide consequences. Two human beings in every million were affected by those energies, and began to change, assuming paranormal forms and abilities.

Realizing he still possessed a fraction of its nigh-infinite power, the Old Man passed the Star Brand along to another human being, Pittsburgh-born car mechanic Kenneth Connell. Connell employed the Star Brand energies for months, fending off the Old Man's efforts to test his abilities, and finally decided to assume the dual identity of a costumed hero. But when Connell realized that he could not wield the power wisely enough, he too tried to transfer the Star Brand's power into an inanimate object. Soaring ten miles high above his home, Connell transferred the Star Brand into a bent dumbbell, only to have its alien energies totally obliterate everything within a 50-mile wide sphere around him, including the city of Pittsburgh. Connell's body itself was disintegrated in the Black Event, but has since been resurrected by the power of the Star Brand.

Now, the "Star Baby" travels back to the Pitt and discovers the new life which has formed there . . .

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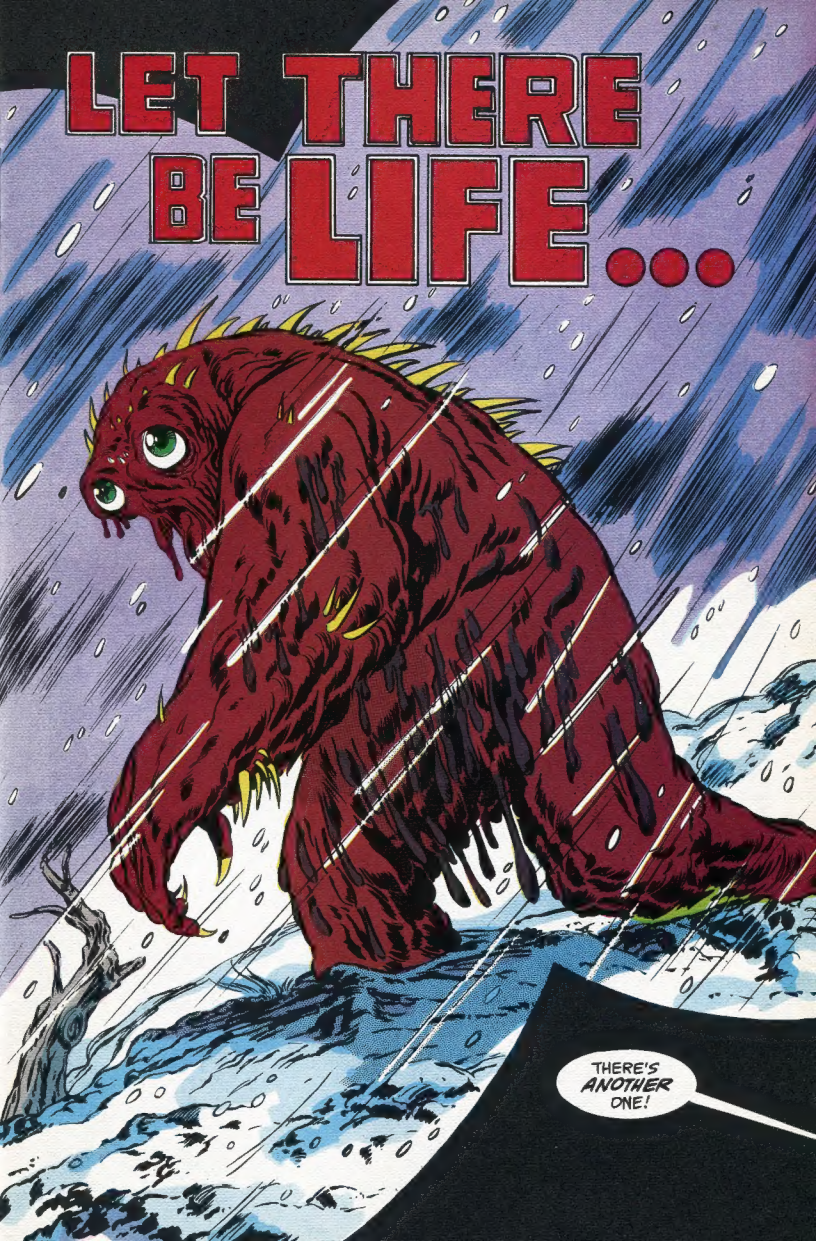
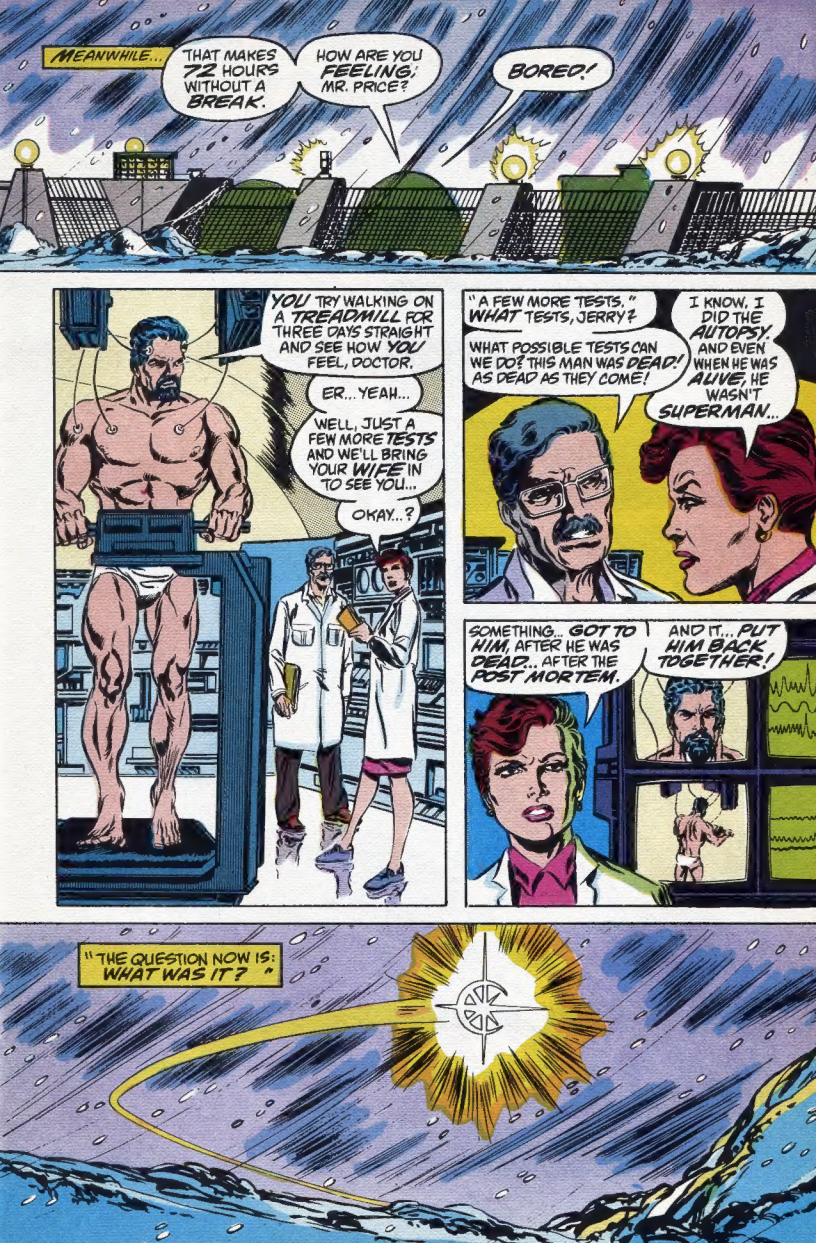
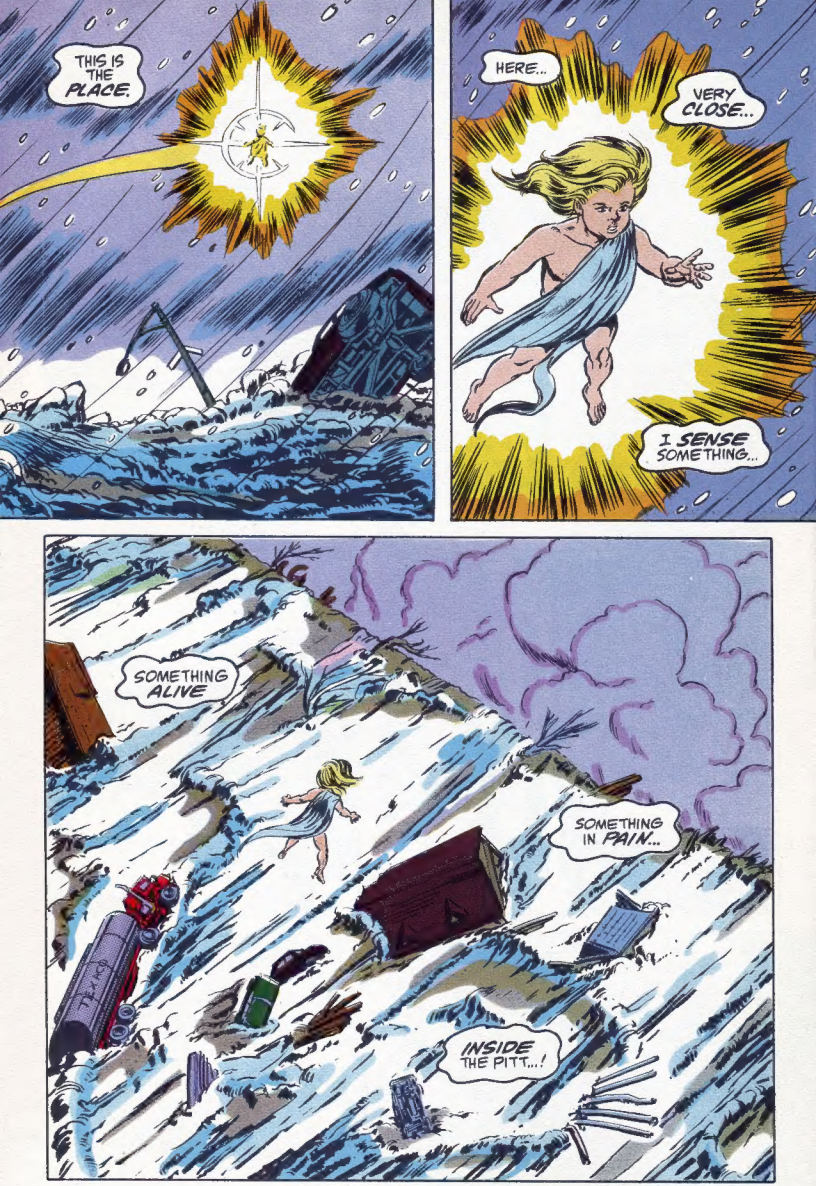

LET THERE BE LIFE...
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!

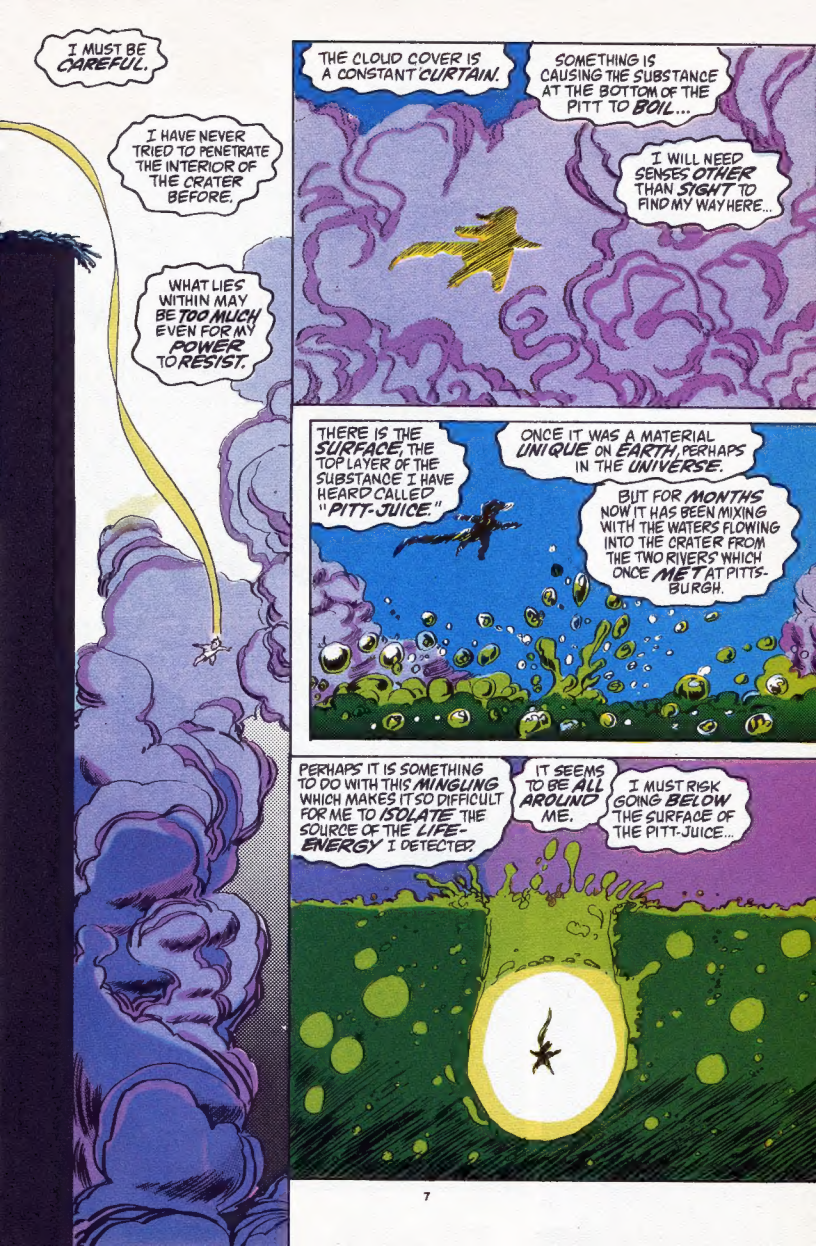
MAN-O-MAN! THA'S A UGLY ONE!
GIMME TH' GUN...!
NO, WAIT A MINUTE.
WE'RE S'POSED T'GET PITCHERS!
LEMME TAKE A COUPL'A SHOTS!
US ARMY
OKAY, BUT HURRY IT UP, WILLYA?
WE'RE TOO CLOSE T'THE PITT T'BE HANGIN' 'ROUND LONG IN ONE PLACE.
KEEP YER PANTS ON. THIS WON'T TAKE...
OH, CRUD!
IT'S SPOTTED US! IT'S COMIN' T'WARDS US!
OHH-KAY!
GONNA HAFTA SETTLE FOR PITCHERS OF PIECES OF THIS ONE.
I'M GONNA TRY ME OUT THIS NEW TOY!

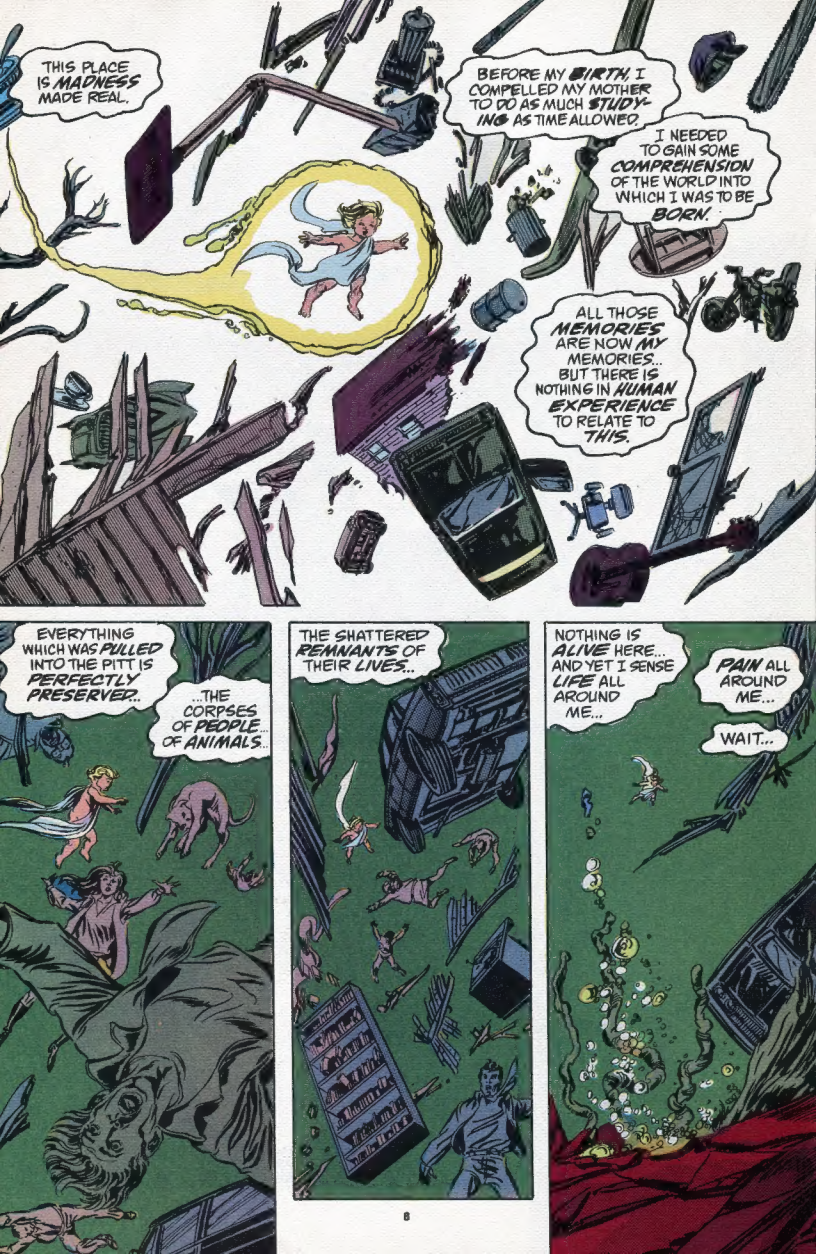
WELL??
WHADDAYA WAITIN' FOR?
IT'S ALMOST ON TOP OF US!
WAIT...
WAIT...
..I CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE.
IT'S LIKE TH' GROUND KEEPS SHIFTIN'...
OH MY GOD...!!!
TH'GROUND!
--THE GROUND!
EEEEAAGH!

THAT MAKES FIFTEEN TIMES YOU'VE LISTENED TO IT, COLONEL BROWNING.
IT... DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER...
NO...
THESE MEN WERE IN SECTOR FIFTY-EIGHT, YOU SAID?
YES.
IS THAT SIGNIFICANT?
EVERYTHING IS SIGNIFICANT, MAJOR. THERE'S NOT A SNOWFLAKE FALLS OVER THE PITT THAT WE DON'T FIND SOME WAY TO MEASURE.
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN FROM ALL THIS, COLONEL?
SECURITY G-9
MAYBE NOTHING.
MAYBE EVERYTHING.
THE WORLD HAS NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. NOTHING IN HUMAN HISTORY COMES CLOSE TO WHAT HAPPENED IN PITTSBURGH.
NOT KRAKATOA NOT HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI.
MAYBE NOT EVEN SODOM AND GOMORRAH
BUT I WILL TELL YOU THIS, MAJOR: UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THIS BASE IS ON PRIORITY ONE STATUS.
NO OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION. NOBODY COMES IN, NOBODY LEAVES.
THE MEN AREN'T GOING TO LIKE THAT, COLONEL. A LOT OF 'EM HAVE BEEN PULLING ALMOST CONSTANT DUTY SINCE PITTSBURGH BLEW.
THERE'S A LOT OF SERIOUS R&R DUE AROUND HERE.
THEN THEY BETTER FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIND IT WHERE THEY CAN, MAJOR.
IF ANYBODY PUTS SO MUCH AS ONE FOOT OUTSIDE YOUR PERIMETER, I WILL PERSONALLY BITE IT OFF!


MEANWHILE...
THAT MAKES 72 HOURS WITHOUT A BREAK.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MR. PRICE?
BORED!
YOU TRY WALKING ON A TREADMILL FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT AND SEE HOW YOU FEEL, DOCTOR.
ER... YEAH...
WELL, JUST A FEW MORE TESTS AND WE'LL BRING YOUR WIFE IN TO SEE YOU...
OKAY...?
"A FEW MORE TESTS," WHAT TESTS, JERRY?
WHAT POSSIBLE TESTS CAN WE DO? THIS MAN WAS DEAD! AS DEAD AS THEY COME!
I KNOW, I DID THE AUTOPSY, AND EVEN WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, HE WASN'T SUPERMAN...
SOMETHING... GOT TO HIM, AFTER HE WAS DEAD... AFTER THE POST MORTEM.
AND IT... PUT HIM BACK TOGETHER!
"THE QUESTION NOW IS: WHAT WAS IT?"


THIS IS THE PLACE.
HERE...
VERY CLOSE...
I SENSE SOMETHING...
SOMETHING ALIVE
SOMETHING IN PAIN...
INSIDE THE PITT...!

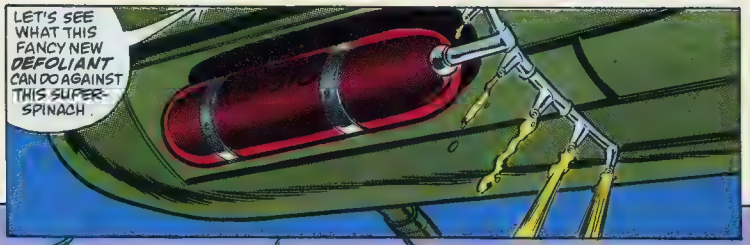

I MUST BE CAREFUL.
I HAVE NEVER TRIED TO PENETRATE THE INTERIOR OF THE CRATER BEFORE.
WHAT LIES WITHIN MAY BE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR MY POWER TO RESIST.
THE CLOUD COVER IS A CONSTANT CURTAIN.
SOMETHING IS CAUSING THE SUBSTANCE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PITT TO BOIL...
I WILL NEED SENSES OTHER THAN SIGHT TO FIND MY WAY HERE...
THERE IS THE SURFACE, THE TOP LAYER OF THE SUBSTANCE I HAVE HEARD CALLED "PITT-JUICE."
ONCE IT WAS A MATERIAL UNIQUE ON EARTH, PERHAPS IN THE UNIVERSE.
BUT FOR MONTHS NOW IT HAS BEEN MIXING WITH THE WATERS FLOWING INTO THE CRATER FROM THE TWO RIVERS WHICH ONCE MET AT PITTSBURGH.
PERHAPS IT IS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS MINGLING WHICH MAKES IT SO DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ISOLATE THE SOURCE OF THE LIFE-ENERGY I DETECTED.
IT SEEMS TO BE ALL AROUND ME.
I MUST RISK GOING BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE PITT-JUICE...


THIS PLACE IS MADNESS MADE REAL.
BEFORE MY BIRTH, I COMPELLED MY MOTHER TO DO AS MUCH STUDYING AS TIME ALLOWED.
I NEEDED TO GAIN SOME COMPREHENSION OF THE WORLD INTO WHICH I WAS TO BE BORN.
ALL THOSE MEMORIES ARE NOW MY MEMORIES.. BUT THERE IS NOTHING IN HUMAN EXPERIENCE TO RELATE TO THIS.
EVERYTHING WHICH WAS PULLED INTO THE PITT IS PERFECTLY PRESERVED..
...THE CORPSES OF PEOPLE.. OF ANIMALS..
THE SHATTERED REMNANTS OF THEIR LIVES..
NOTHING IS ALIVE HERE... AND YET I SENSE LIFE ALL AROUND ME...
PAIN ALL AROUND ME...
WAIT...

WHAT'S THIS?
A PATTERN OF FISSURES IN THE FLOOR OF THE PITT.
THACKERY
THE STRUCTURE OF FUSED MATERIAL IN THE PITT WALL IS UNSTABLE.
THE VOLCANIC PRESSURE BUILDING BENEATH HAS CRACKED IT.
BUT THAT IS NOT VOLCANIC MATERIAL FORCING ITSELF THROUGH THE CRACKS...
IT IS...
...ALIVE, COLONEL.
EVERYTHING WITHIN 3 FEET OF THE EDGE OF PITT IS ALIVE.
A SINGLE GIGANTIC LIFE FORM!!
EXPLANATION, DOCTOR?
ONLY GUESSES, COLONEL. THERE'S NOTHING IN MY TEXT BOOKS TO COVER THIS.
BUT AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, IT'S MOVING.... SPREADING OUT BEYOND THE RIM OF THE CRATER.

SPREADING?
AT WHAT RATE?
VARIED. JUST FAST ENOUGH TO SEE. AVERAGE OF ABOUT A MILE A DAY, I'D SAY. IN SOME PLACES THAT MEANS NOT AT ALL...

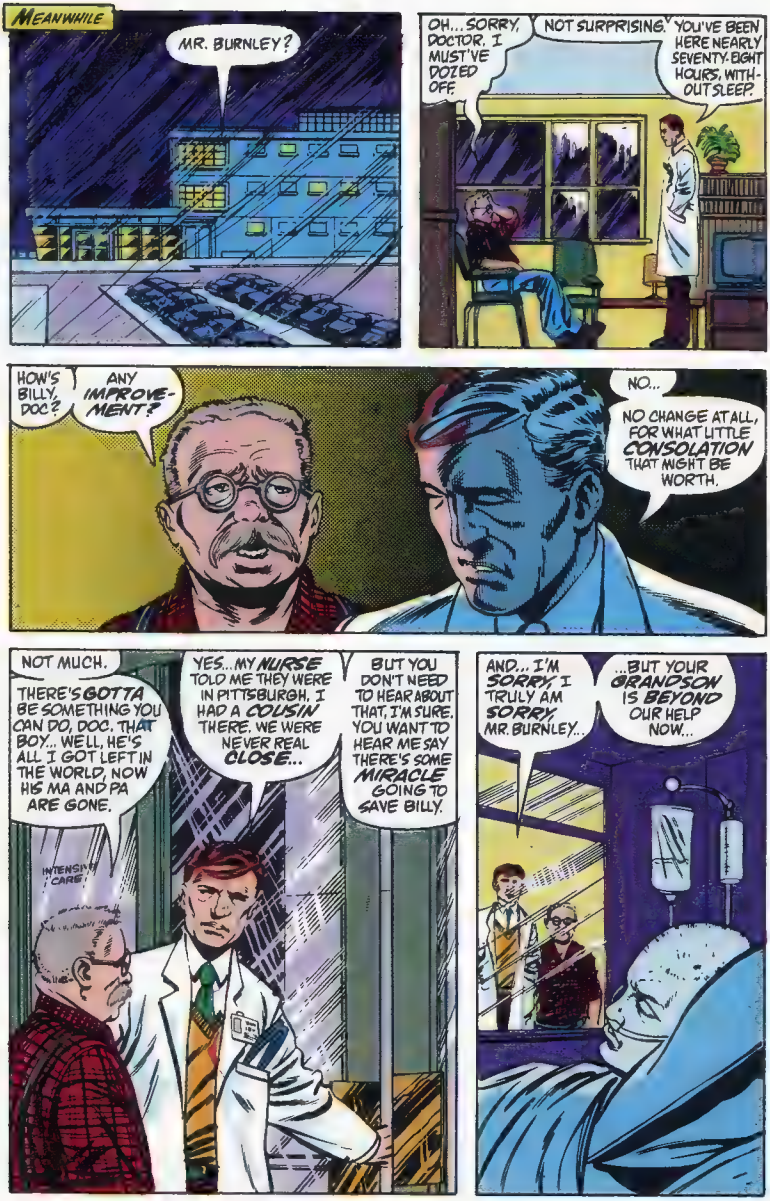
BUT IN OTHERS IT'S SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE.
OKAY, PILOT BRING US DOWN FOR A LOW PASS.
POINT TAKEN, DOCTOR.


LET'S SEE WHAT THIS FANCY NEW DEFOLIANT CAN DO AGAINST THIS SUPER-SPINACH.

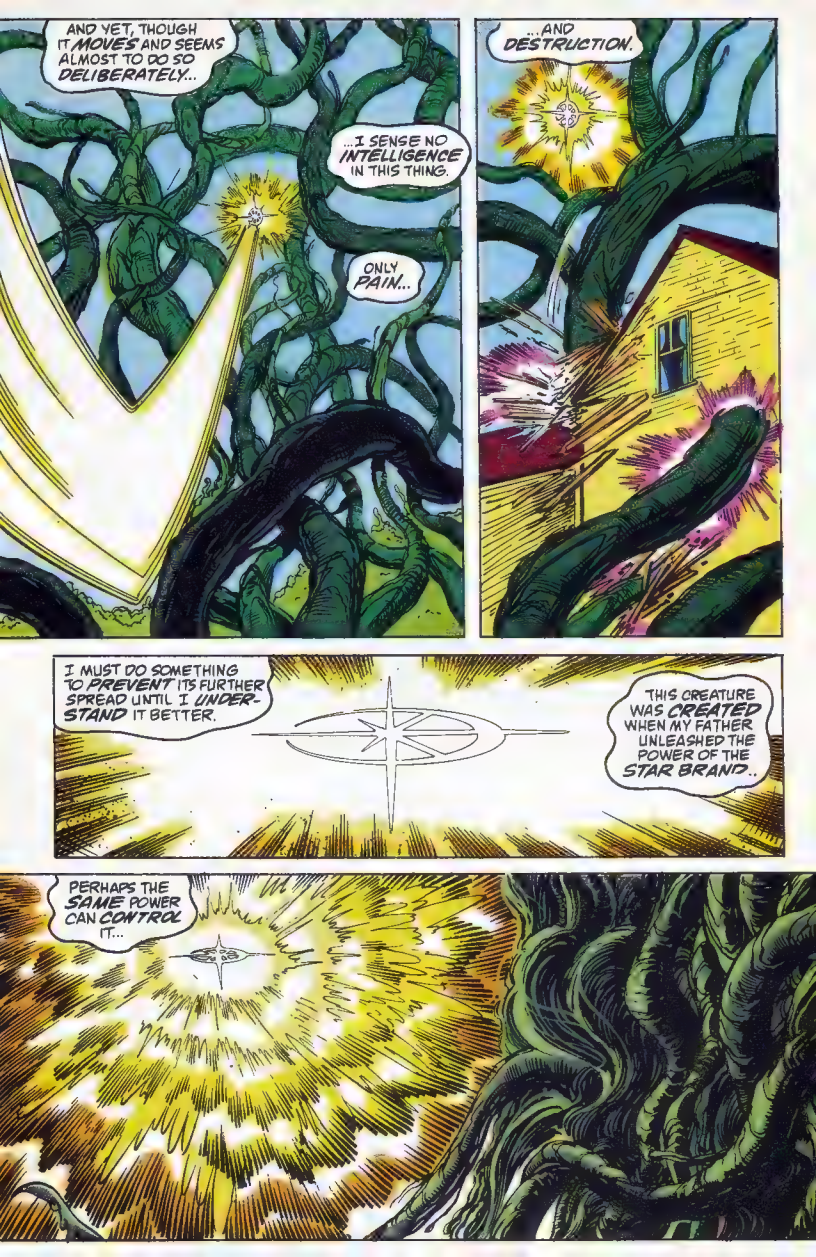
SSHHHRREEEEEE

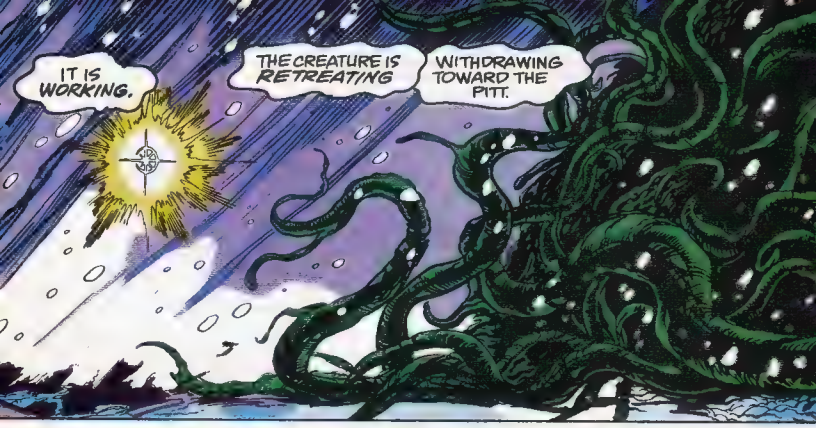
THAT NOISE! WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT NOISE?!
IT'S THE ORGANISM!
IT'S IN PAIN! IT'S REACTIN' TO THE TOXINS!
REACTING?
IT CAN'T!
IT'S JUST A PLANT!
THEN IT'S AN ANGRY PLANT, COLONEL!
LOOK!
PILOT! DEPLOY THE GUNS!
BLAST IT!!

NO GO, COLONEL!
EVERY TIME WE BLOW A HOLE IN IT, IT GROWS BACK UP AGAIN!
IT'S ALL ROUND US!
IT'S PULLING US DOWN!


MEANWHILE
MR. BURNLEY?
OH... SORRY, DOCTOR. I MUST'VE DOZED OFF.
NOT SURPRISING. YOU'VE BEEN HERE NEARLY SEVENTY-EIGHT HOURS, WITHOUT SLEEP.
HOW'S BILLY, DOC?
ANY IMPROVEMENT?
NO...
NO CHANGE AT ALL, FOR WHAT LITTLE CONSOLATION THAT MIGHT BE WORTH.
NOT MUCH.
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO, DOC. THAT BOY... WELL, HE'S ALL I GOT LEFT IN THE WORLD, NOW HIS MA AND PA ARE GONE.
INTENSIVE CARE
YES... MY NURSE TOLD ME THEY WERE IN PITTSBURGH, I HAD A COUSIN THERE. WE WERE NEVER REAL CLOSE...
BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO HEAR ABOUT THAT, I'M SURE. YOU WANT TO HEAR ME SAY THERE'S SOME MIRACLE GOING TO SAVE BILLY.
AND... I'M SORRY, I TRULY AM SORRY, MR. BURNLEY..
...BUT YOUR GRANDSON IS BEYOND OUR HELP NOW...

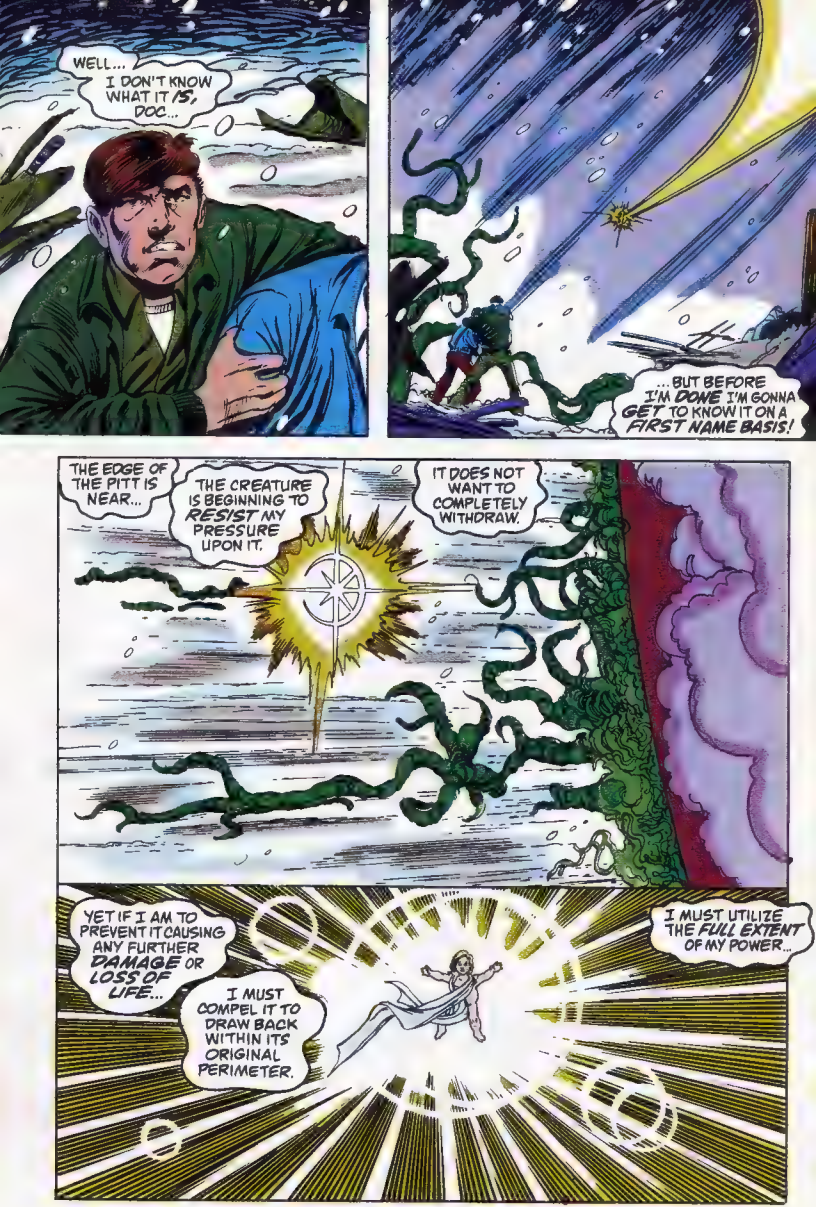
ELSEWHERE...
RUN! RUN!!
WHAT IS THAT THING?
IT'S FILLING THE WHOLE SKY!!
IT'S FROM PITTSBURGH! IT'S GOTTA BE!
I BIN HEARIN' STORIES... MONSTERS COMIN' OUTTA THE PITT!
BUT... BUT HOW CAN THAT BE? WE'RE A HUNDRED MILES FROM THE CRATER!
LOOK! WHAT'S THAT UP IN THE SKY?!
THIS IS THE LIFEFORM I DETECTED.
NO WONDER I COULD NOT ISOLATE ITS POSITION.
IT IS EVERY-WHERE.
ALL AROUND THE FUSED WALLS OF THE PITT...
MILLIONS OF CUBIC YARDS OF LIVING MATTER
ALL THE SAME CREATURE!


AND YET, THOUGH IT MOVES AND SEEMS ALMOST TO DO SO DELIBERATELY...
...I SENSE NO INTELLIGENCE IN THIS THING.
ONLY PAIN...
...AND DESTRUCTION.
I MUST DO SOMETHING TO PREVENT ITS FURTHER SPREAD UNTIL I UNDERSTAND IT BETTER.
THIS CREATURE WAS CREATED WHEN MY FATHER UNLEASHED THE POWER OF THE STAR BRAND..
PERHAPS THE SAME POWER CAN CONTROL IT...

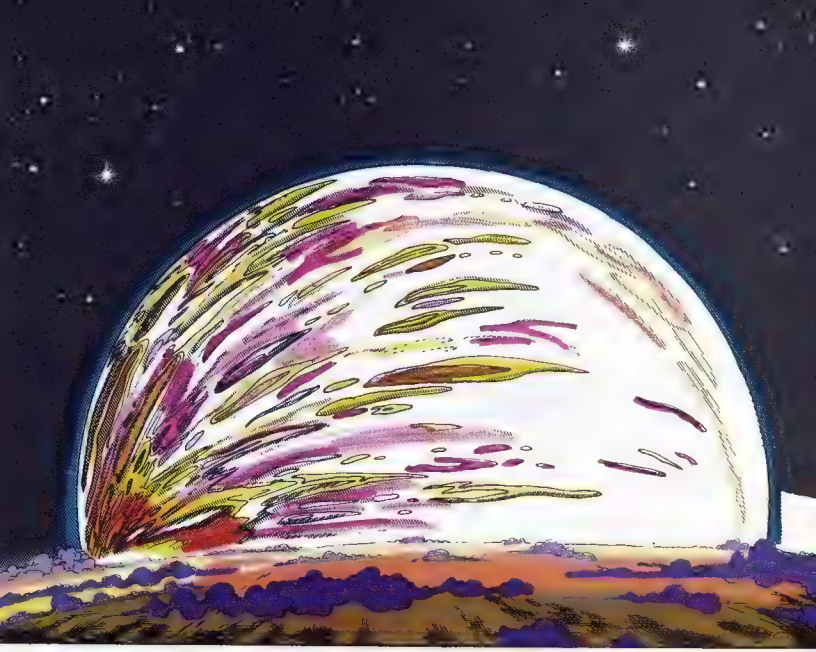

IT IS WORKING.
THE CREATURE IS RETREATING
WITHDRAWING TOWARD THE PITT.

C'MON... DOC,
WE... MAY NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO GET CLEAR!
BUT... YOUR PILOT...
HE'S...

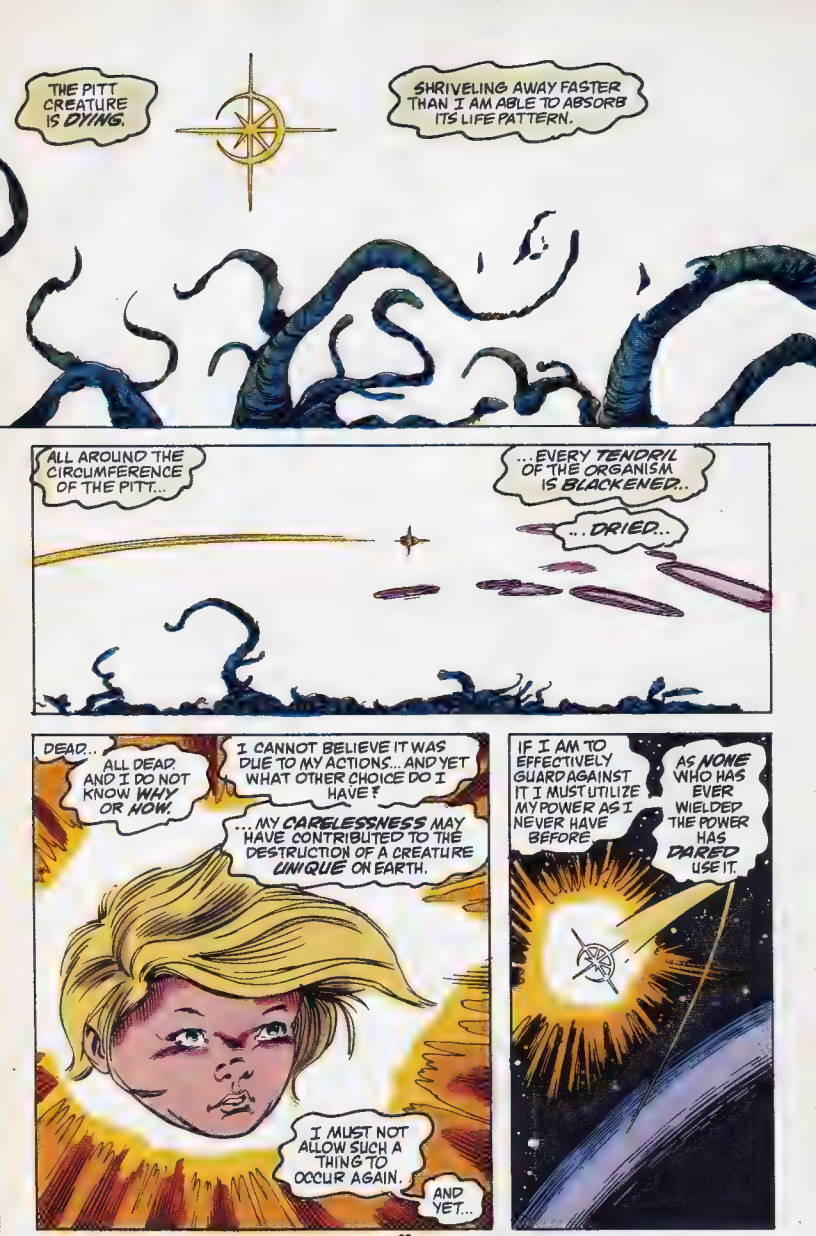
HE'S DEAD.
AN' WE WILL BE TOO, IF THAT THING COMES BACK.
NOW MOVE!
BUT...
BUT WHAT MADE IT PULL BACK?
WHAT MADE IT LET US GO?

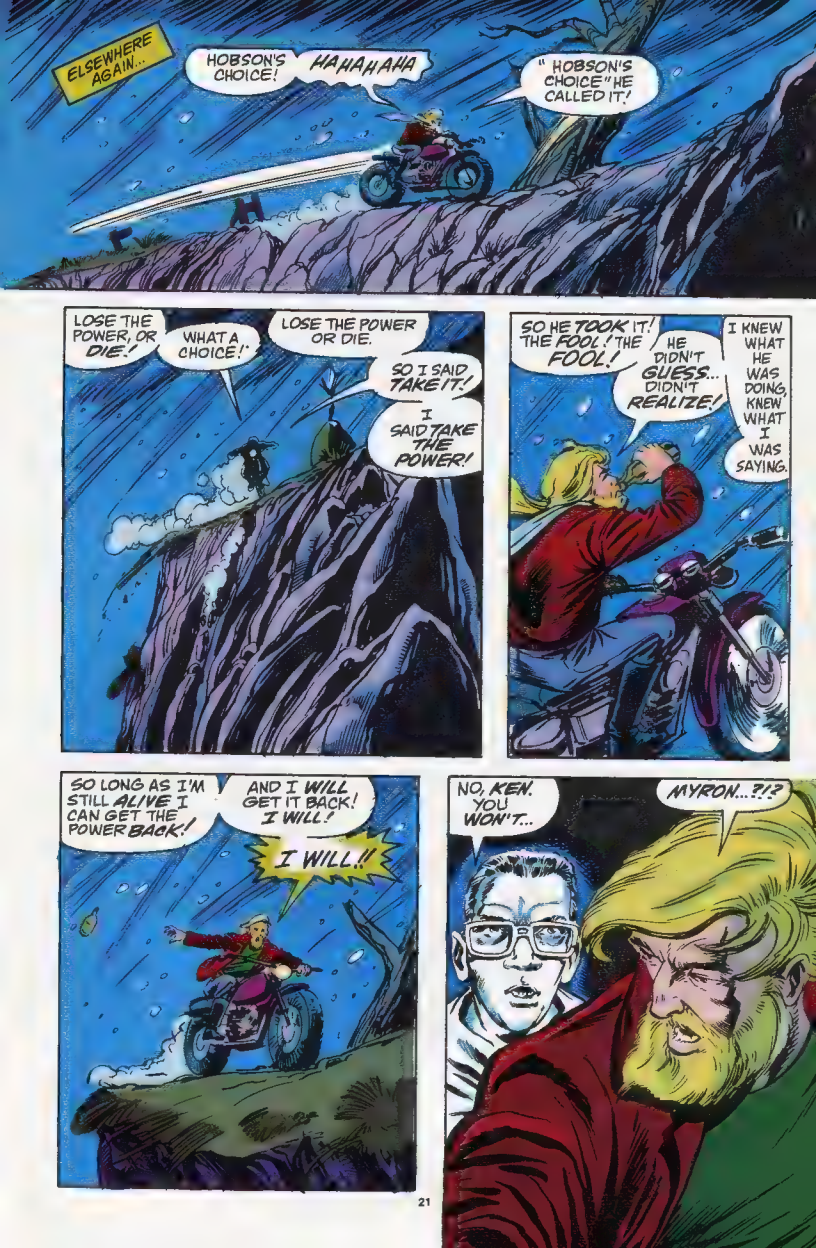

WELL... I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT *IS*, DOC...
... BUT BEFORE I'M *DONE* I'M GONNA *GET* TO KNOW IT ON A *FIRST NAME BASIS!*
THE EDGE OF THE PITT IS NEAR...
THE CREATURE IS BEGINNING TO *RESIST* MY PRESSURE UPON IT.
IT DOES NOT WANT TO COMPLETELY WITHDRAW.
YET IF I AM TO PREVENT IT CAUSING ANY FURTHER *DAMAGE* OR *LOSS OF LIFE*...
I MUST COMPEL IT TO DRAW BACK WITHIN ITS ORIGINAL PERIMETER.
I MUST UTILIZE THE *FULL EXTENT* OF MY POWER...

BUT I MUST CONTAIN THE POWER TO THE PITT ITSELF.

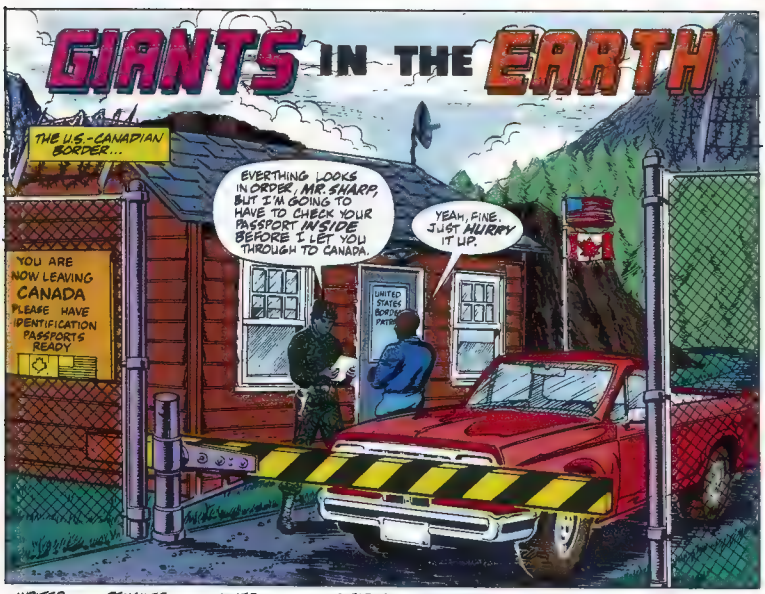


OH NO--?


THE PITT CREATURE IS DYING.
SHRIVELING AWAY FASTER THAN I AM ABLE TO ABSORB ITS LIFE PATTERN.
ALL AROUND THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE PITT...
...EVERY TENDRIL OF THE ORGANISM IS BLACKENED...
...DRIED...
DEAD..
ALL DEAD AND I DO NOT KNOW WHY OR HOW.
I CANNOT BELIEVE IT WAS DUE TO MY ACTIONS... AND YET WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO I HAVE?
...MY CARELESSNESS MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF A CREATURE UNIQUE ON EARTH.
I MUST NOT ALLOW SUCH A THING TO OCCUR AGAIN.
AND YET...
IF I AM TO EFFECTIVELY GUARD AGAINST IT I MUST UTILIZE MY POWER AS I NEVER HAVE BEFORE.
AS NONE WHO HAS EVER WIELDED THE POWER HAS DARED USE IT.


ELSEWHERE AGAIN...
HOBSON'S CHOICE!
HAHAHAHA
"HOBSON'S CHOICE" HE CALLED IT!
LOSE THE POWER, OR DIE!
WHAT A CHOICE!
LOSE THE POWER OR DIE.
SO I SAID TAKE IT!
I SAID TAKE THE POWER!
SO HE TOOK IT! THE FOOL! THE FOOL!
HE DIDN'T GUESS... DIDN'T REALIZE!
I KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING, KNEW WHAT I WAS SAYING.
SO LONG AS I'M STILL ALIVE I CAN GET THE POWER BACK!
AND I WILL GET IT BACK! I WILL!
I WILL!!
NO, KEN. YOU WON'T...
MYRON...?!?

NOOO


GIANTS IN THE EARTH
THE U.S.-CANADIAN BORDER...
YOU ARE NOW LEAVING CANADA PLEASE HAVE IDENTIFICATION PASSPORTS READY
EVERTHING LOOKS IN ORDER, MR. SHARP, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CHECK YOUR PASSPORT INSIDE BEFORE I LET YOU THROUGH TO CANADA.
YEAH, FINE. JUST HURRY IT UP.
UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL

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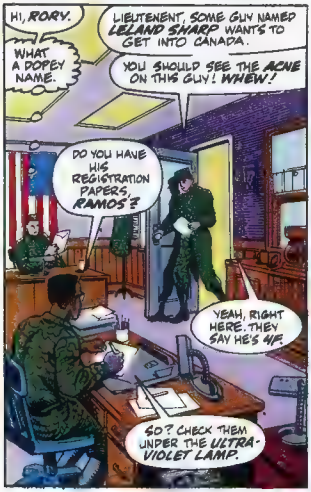
HI, RORY.
WHAT A DOPEY NAME.
LIEUTENENT, SOME GUY NAMED LELAND SHARP WANTS TO GET INTO CANADA.
YOU SHOULD SEE THE ACNE ON THIS GUY! WHEW!
DO YOU HAVE HIS REGISTRATION PAPERS, RAMOS?
YEAH, RIGHT HERE. THEY SAY HE'S 4/F.
SO? CHECK THEM UNDER THE ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP.

SAY HUDSON, WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE TO BE REGISTERED BEFORE WE LET THEM ACROSS THE BORDER?
TO KEEP TABS ON PEOPLE WHO TRY TO DODGE THE DRAFT. DEPORTATION LAWS HAVE BEEN RECENTLY MODIFIED SO THAT CANADA IS NO LONGER A SHELTER FOR DODGERS.
BUT, I MEAN, WHY THE SUDDEN PARANOIA? THE U.S.-CANADIAN BORDER USED TO BE UNPATROLLED.
IT HAS TO BE WITH THAT SPITFIRE INCIDENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA LAST FEBRUARY--

PARANORMALS? REALLY?
YEAH, LIKE THAT ROOSTVOW GUY. THERE'S A WHOLE SECTION ON HIM IN THIS MONTH'S SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, RORY.
SHUT YER TRAP, IVY.
BY THE WAY, I HEARD SOME RUMORS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ROUNDING UP PARANORMALS FOR SOME REASON.
ROUNDING UP PARANORMALS? COULD MEAN TROUBLE...
ENOUGH TALK, MEN, LET'S GO ARREST OURSELVES A DRAFT DODGER!
C'MON, RORY, WE GOT WORK TO DO.
YEAH, JUST A SECOND.
U.S. CANADA BORDER
CHECK POINT
STOP AND SHOW IDENTIFICATION
IS THERE SOME SORT OF PROBLEM?
AS A MATTER OF FACT THERE IS--ER, LELAND.
DON'T CALL ME LELAND.
YOUR REGISTRATION PAPERS AND PASSPORT ARE FORGERIES. CROSSING AN INTERNATIONAL BORDER WITH FALSE DOCUMENTATION IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE.
SIR, YOU ARE UNDER MILITARY ARREST!
HE'S TAKING IT COOL, TOO COOL.
BLAST IT! I HAD NO IDEA THERE WERE BORDER STATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S AND CANADA... AND THE LAST THING I NEED NOW IS TROUBLE!
NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST COME INSIDE WITH ME.
SINCE THE AGENCY FIRED ME AFTER THAT FIASCO WITH THOSE CLINIC ESCAPEES* I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD BOUNTY-HUNTING JOB WORTH MY... SPECIAL TALENT. AND WHEN MY PAL BLOODHOUND TOLD ME WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE ARMY--
* D.P.7 #2-3.
--I DECIDED TO PACK UP AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY.
I DON'T WANT TROUBLE, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE ARRESTED. ESPECIALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT.
A MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT A MAN'S GOTTA DO...

BLAM
--HUH?
AHRR--!
LIEUTENANT!
YEEAARGH!
HOLY-!
BURSTING MY PYSCHO-PLASMIC BLISTERS HURTS LIKES CRAZY, BUT IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
WHOA!
SHARP IS A PARANORMAL HIMSELF! HOPE THIS WON'T FORCE ME TO-- TO-- I CAN'T!
SO LONG SIMPS!
AGH! MY FACE!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
I'LL GET THAT MONSTER!
IVY, NO! WAIT!
RELAX, RORY, I'LL -
GOTCHA
WHA--?
BRAAAM
ARRGH!
AHHHHHH!
OH MAN THIS IS KILLING ME THERE'S GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY!
HUGK-HUGK-
YOU DON'T MIND IF I BORROW THIS, DO YOU?

WHUD
YOU ALL RIGHT, HUDSON? YOUR FACE--!
I'LL BE FINE
LET'S GET THAT FREAK!
YES, SIR!
HEY!
HE'S GOT A GUN!
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME, YOU SHIT-HEADS!
RETURN FIRE!
CAN'T BLOW THIS ONE! HAVE TO GET AWAY SOMEHOW!
GIVE IT UP, LELAND!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
DON'T CALL ME LELAND!
YEOW!
LISTEN, SHARP, GIVE UP NOW, AND YOU WON'T GET HURT. DODGING THE DRAFT ISN'T WORTH GETTING KILLED!
SHUT UP AND SHOOT HIM ALREADY!
OH, NO, SOLDIER BOY? YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!
IT'S EVERY CITIZEN'S DUTY TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY AS BEST HE CAN. YOU HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO USE YOUR SUPER-HUMAN ABILITIES TO HELP.
HELP THE ARMY? THAT'S A LAUGH!
THEY'RE FORMING A SECRET ARMY OF PARANORMALS. THEY'RE GOING TO START WORLD WAR THREE! WE'LL ALL DIE!
BLAM
SECRET ARMY?
IT'S TRUE!
SHOOT BACK, YOU FOOL! SHOOT BACK!

NOW, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT I--
WHAT?
OH, HECK!
ALL RIGHT, YOU JERKS! I GOT YOUR OVER-EAGER FRIEND HERE!
YOU GOT FIVE SECONDS TO THROW YOUR GUNS AWAY BEFORE I BLOW HIS HEAD OFF!
DO AS HE SAYS, MAN!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
SHOOT HIM, RAMOS! THAT MANIAC'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LET GO!
FIVE SECONDS!
I CAN'T RISK IVY'S LIFE, AND I CAN'T LET SHARP GO FREE. FOR MONTHS I'VE BEEN TRYING TO AVOID THIS--
FOUR!
--BUT NOW I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
THREE!
LOOK, I'M GIVING UP, OKAY!
SMART MOVE. HANDS UP, PAL!
HERE GOES EVERYTHING
WHAT THE BLAZES--?
HANDS MADE OF DIRT RISING OUT OF THE GROUND!
A WHOLE BODY--!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
HLP!
WELL, I'LL BE! VOODOO!
GOT TO CONCENTRATE. TAKE HIM DOWN QUICKLY.
GUN DIDN'T WORK. BLISTERS MUST HAVE REGENERATED BY NOW.
OKAY, DIRT-MAN, LET ME SHOW YOU WHY THEY CALL ME SHRAPNEL!
OOH-RAH!
BLAMMO

DO YOUR WORST, SHRAPNEL
MY PSYCHOPLASM ISN'T EVEN SLOWING IT DOWN!
I THINK I'M IN TROUBLE!
DANG! MISSED--!
LET'S SEE HOW WELL MY GOLEM DOES IN A FIGHT. FEELS WEIRD FIGHTING BY REMOTE CONTROL...
GOT TO USE MY FIGHTING SKILLS!
HA! TAGGED HIM!
UNNF!
NO BLASTED DIRT-HEAD'S GONNA BEAT ME!
TOO LOW!
I'M A MAN, BLAST IT! NO WALKING MUD PIE CAN STAND BETWEEN ME AND MY FREE--
NOW!
I WON.
NOW WHAT?
AMAZING, RAMOS, JUST AMAZING. I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE A PARA-NORMAL TOO. THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT TO KEEP A SECRET THOUGH. I'VE GOT TO REPORT THIS TO WASHINGTON. YOU'LL BE IN THAT PARANORMAL ARMY IN NO TIME.
IN NO TIME, HE SAYS. THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF EVER SINCE I FOUND OUT ABOUT MY STRANGE ABILITY.
I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ANYTHING BUT NORMAL. I ESPECIALLY DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME SOME SCIENTIFIC ODDITY. AND NOW A SECRET ARMY--
WOW.
WAIT A SECOND
I'M BEING GIVEN A CHANCE TO BE MORE THAN THAT. A CHANCE TO SERVE MY COUNTRY THE WAY I TOLD SHRAPNEL HE SHOULD. A CHANCE FOR THE GLORY OF AMERICA'S ELITE!
ALL RIGHT, PARANORMAL ARMY... GET READY FOR RORY RAMOS!
END.

NEXT ISSUE

JUSTICE · TRUTH
HOPE

EXCALIBUR™

THE LEGEND CONTINUES!

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT, ALAN DAVIS & PAUL NEARY
BEGINNING IN JUNE, FROM MARVEL®

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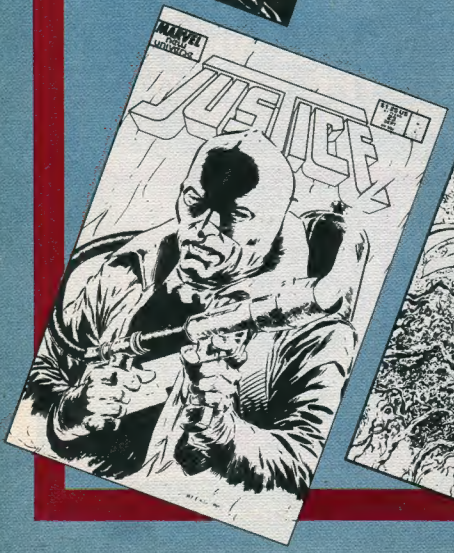


universe news

The Official Timeline of the New Universe

July 26, 1986

After discovering how to use his paranormal power of telepathic coercion, **Wayne Tucker** practices on various people in the local park where he's living. He then returns home to tell his father about his powers. The two of them get into an argument which causes **Tucker** to accidentally use his powers against his father. The attack causes extreme pain to his father but creates a temporary empathic link between him and his son. **Tucker** is confused by this occurrence and flees his home.

(PSI-FORCE ANNUAL #1)

July 27, 1986

Retired Latin teacher **Lenore Fenzl** begins to manifest her paranormal powers as "fatigue-poison spots" on her arms and chest. While showing these spots to a friend and a nurse at a nursing home in Steven's Point, Wisconsin, she inadvertantly tranquilizes them. Her first manifestation is witnessed invisibly by **Nelson Kohler**.

(D.P. 7 ANNUAL #1)

Psychology professor **Philip Nolan Voigt** and psychotherapist **Dexter Charme** take over the Sawyer Sanitorium near Steven's Point, Wisconsin and rename it The Clinic.

While riding a motorcycle in the Laurel Mountains, Pennsylvania, mechanic **Kenneth Connell** is contacted by the "Old Man" and given the Star Brand. Connell immediately manifests the paranormal powers of flight and super strength through use of the Star Brand. **Connell** then flies to the home of his friend Myron Goldberg, a psychiatrist, in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. While explaining how he acquired his power to him, Connell is attacked by what looks like an armored extraterrestrial. The alien pursues **Connell** into a deserted dump. When **Connell** feels he is being defeated by the alien, he unleashes a great burst of energy which apparently destroys the alien. **Connell** then flies to his friend **Maddie Felix**'s house, where he rests.

(STAR BRAND #1)

While quarterbacking in his first game since acquiring his paranormal powers, **Jack Magniconte** injures wide receiver **"Dasher" Corbin** by throwing the football to him. **Corbin** is then hospitalized with several broken ribs. **Magniconte** realizes that he is using his strength too much, so he plays the rest of the game carefully monitoring his throws. His team, the New York Smashers, goes on to defeat the Troy Haymakers 35-17. After the game, the team visits **Corbin** in the hospital.

(KICKERS INC. #1)

July 28, 1986

Secretary **Tracy Speck** manifests her paranormal power to perceive through other people's eyes. Thinking she is going insane, she travels to the newly formed Clinic to have herself committed.

(Continued next issue)

ITEM: At last the time has come to announce the winners of the "WRITE EVENT." Several months ago we asked you, our loyal New U readers, to help us in the naming of the letters pages for JUSTICE, PSI-FORCE, and THE STAR BRAND. The response was overwhelming. So much so that it took us a little longer than we expected to go through all the agonizing entries. But, we are finally finished sorting it all out, put our collective heads together, and have come up with the winners. Here they are:

The **JUSTICE** letters page will now be called **"THE VERDICT"** thanks to Chris Ballew of Knoxville, TN.

The **PSI-FORCE** letters page will henceforth be known as **"PSIGN POSTS"** thanks to Matthew Middleton, of Brisbane, Australia.

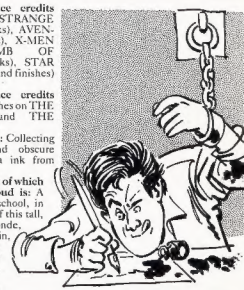
LETTERS TO STAR BRAND has been officially changed, by popular demand to **"BRAND NEWS"** thanks to the following five people: John Cavano, Benica, CA, Aaron Curtis, Goldhil, OR, Anthony DiMaura, Philadelphia, PA, Terry Jones, Ainsworth, British Columbia, and David McNear, Jerseyville, IL.

The above winners will all receive a full-sized and autographed copy of the first letters page that their winning title appears on, as well as a special New Universe poster. Thanks go to all of you Nukin' New U fans who submitted entries.

ITEM: What's more horrifying than trying to pronounce the names of the characters in each issue of PSI-FORCE? It would only be STAR BRAND writer/artist John L. Byrne's novel FEARBOOK, now available from Warner Books. This is John's first published novel and is guaranteed to scare the socks off of you. New Universe editor, Hardy *Howard Mackie*, recently read this skin-crawling tome and has been seen wandering the hallowed halls of Marvel sockless ever since (much to the chagrin of his loyal assistant *David Wohl*. Pee-yoo!) By the way, FEARBOOK is not only recommended for those strong of heart but for mature readers only. (John put some naughty bits in it.)

ITEM: It's been two months now since New Universe editor *Howard Mackie* got an office with a window!

PRO FILE: TOM PALMER



Marvel freelance credits (past): DR. STRANGE (pencils and inks), AVENGERS (finishes), X-MEN (inks), TOMB OF DRACULA (inks), STAR WARS (pencils and finishes) etc . . .

Marvel freelance credits (present): Finishes on THE AVENGERS and THE STAR BRAND.

My hobbies are: Collecting pen points and obscure brands of India ink from other countries.

The single work of which I am most proud is: A painting in art school, in anatomy class, of this tall, voluptuous blonde, with alabaster skin, and the largest . . . well, it was terrific . . . painting.

My pet peeves are: Not taking her out early enough in the morning for a "walk."

My place of birth is: A stone's throw from Howard Mackie's birthplace.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Keeping family and friends from finding out how I earn a living.

My oddest habit is: Using my sleeve to alternately wipe my nose and my pen points.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Sam Kinison.

The reason I got into comics was: I believed Stan Lee about the 'fame and fortune' part.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Dangerous.

My favorite performers are: Larry 'Bud' Melman and Ronald Reagan.

The last good book I read was: A 'quick read' given to me by Walt Simonson, PALEONTOLOGY: IMAGE OF THE MESOZOIC WORLD.

The last good movie I saw was: PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE

The biggest influences on my work include: Al Feldstein and Alan B. Cober.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To break this uncontrolled compulsion to always meet deadlines.

The worst part of my job is: Keeping my nose clean.

When nobody's looking I like to: Swap trade secrets with Josef Rubinstein.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I tend to be slightly ambiguous about my private life.

PRESIDENT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT FAILS

(UPI) ATLANTA, GA — An assassination attempt was made on the life of the President of the United States today. White House officials report that while giving a press con- ference [illegible] thanks in part to the vest and cry.

...he life of the President of the United States today. White ... officials repo... pe... ...fere...

If you think you're getting bounced around by life's little problems...

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